



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 30, 2005

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Fire Marshall Reminds Falls Church City Residents to Practice Safety July 4th

FALLS CHURCH, VA – Arlington County's Fire Marshall encourages Falls Church City residents to exercise caution this July 4th and reminds residents that projectile fireworks and fireworks that explode or emit flames or sparks to a distance greater than 12 feet are prohibited by Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. Individuals in possession of illegal fireworks could face prosecution.

The safest way to enjoy July 4th celebrations is to attend public fireworks displays conducted by professional pyrotechnicians. Falls Church City is offering a spectacular Independence Day Celebration on July 4 with musical entertainment beginning at 7 p.m. and fireworks beginning at 9:30 p.m. The festivities will be held at George Mason High School located at 7124 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church.

Safety is key to any July 4th celebration. An estimated 23,200 fires caused by fireworks in 2002 resulted in approximately \$35 million in property loss. Almost 60 percent of those fires occurred during the month of July around the Independence Day holiday, according to "The Dangers of Fireworks" report recently issued by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Children under age 15 suffered 45 percent of the 9,300 injuries from fireworks. Firecrackers, sparklers and bottle rockets were the leading contributors to these injuries.

The report, developed by the National Fire Data Center and is a part of FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration, is based on data from the 2002 National Fire Incident Reporting System, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Fire Protection Association. The report summarizes some of the characteristics of fireworks fires, with an emphasis on the dangers and injuries that are associated with fireworks. A copy of the full report can be downloaded from www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/pubs/tfrs.shtm.

For further safety information contact the Arlington County Fire Marshall's Office at 703-228-4644. For details about Falls Church City's Independence Day Celebration call 703-248-5178 or visit www.fallschurchva.gov.

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